

we can come together to develop a serious budget plan.

But for now, let us debate the values underpinning this discussion—the fundamental choice between a vision that offers extreme ideology, out-of-touch with the everyday struggles and hopes of American families, versus one that offers a path to future competitiveness in the global economy, and a renewed opportunity to achieve the American Dream.

I know which one I'll choose.

#### JESSICA JERKE TRIBUTE

### HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an unmatched honor for me to stand and pay tribute to the short, yet remarkable, life of Jessica Jerke of La Salle, Colorado. She was a young woman who accomplished more in her 21 years than most people can achieve in a lifetime. Jessica truly devoted herself to a life of selflessness and compassion to everyone she interacted with.

Ms. Jessica Jerke was born in Greeley, Colorado, and was an inspiration to her friends and family throughout her life. She was a member of the Greeley Children's Chorale, as well as a member of the Continental Singers. Jessica had even written and recorded some of her own music. Jessica graduated from University High School in 2008 where she was a member of the choir, the dance team, and the tennis team. She was also a devout Christian who possessed a deep faith, and had a strong relationship with God. Jessica was so committed to her faith that she went on two mission trips to Costa Rica and India to try to help those that were less fortunate than her.

Jessica attended Colorado Christian University where she studied music education, and in her 2nd semester of college she began to show symptoms of the unknown disease that she would fiercely battle for the next two years. Physicians from around the nation could not diagnose what was wrong with her. As her conditioned worsened, Jessica continued to flash her beautiful smile, never losing her winning attitude, and grew closer to her Lord. Jessica wanted no gifts as she celebrated her 21st birthday from a wheel chair, but asked that people make donations to the Christian mission in India instead. Jessica was a true embodiment of the Christian ideals that she held so closely.

Jessica Jerke demonstrated true grace in the face of misfortune, and our nation has lost a great citizen of the world. Mr. Speaker it has been a privilege to stand before you and pay tribute to the life of this extraordinary young lady.

#### CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under

consideration the bill (H. Con. Res. 34) establishing the budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2012 and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2013 through 2021:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chair, I would like to draw your attention to a letter from Secretary Sebelius on the impact of H. Con. Res. 34.

THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, April 14, 2011.

Hon. HENRY A. WAXMAN,  
Ranking Member, House Energy and Commerce  
Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR RANKING MEMBER WAXMAN: We received your letter today requesting our assessment of the impact of the enactment of House Concurrent Resolution 35 (H. Con. Res. 35) on Medicare, Medicaid, and the other affected health programs at the Department of Health and Human Services. We have not yet had an opportunity to fully evaluate the extensive impact that the language of the resolution would have, but offer a few initial observations.

As you know, the Affordable Care Act modifies and improves almost every Medicare payment system—including the inpatient hospital prospective payment system, the outpatient hospital prospective payment system, the physician fee schedule, Medicare Advantage plan payments, and prescription drug plan payments. If this resolution were enacted, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) would not be able to use any funds to carry out these payment provisions based on any rate calculated on the basis of provisions of the Affordable Care Act—which is to say virtually all rates.

In a system in which millions of claims are paid each week, millions of claims would accumulate, which CMS and its contractors would be prohibited from paying. As a result, providers and suppliers of services to Medicare beneficiaries—many of which are small businesses—would experience significant disruption.

H. Con. Res. 35 would adversely affect health care in rural areas as well. As an example, as a means to encourage physicians to provide services in rural areas, the Affordable Care Act established a new 10 percent bonus payment for primary care services furnished by primary care practitioners and for major surgical procedures furnished by general surgeons in shortage areas. Without available funding, CMS would no longer be able to provide the bonus to primary care and general surgery physicians for eligible services.

The Affordable Care Act also gives CMS new tools to fight fraud and helps us move from a pay-and-chase system to a comprehensive prevention-focused strategy. By precluding the use of funds for such efforts, H. Con. Res. 35 would substantially impede CMS's proven and successful efforts to reduce fraud and waste in the health care system resulting in increased erroneous payments. H. Con. Res. 35 would effectively require CMS to cease enforcing new screening and enrollment standards, diminish CMS's ability to suspend payments when credible allegations of fraud are uncovered, and reduce resources that have been made available for investments in anti-fraud work.

The Affordable Care Act also includes numerous other policies to make health care more affordable, accessible, and accountable for seniors, individuals with disabilities, children, and all other Americans, as well as businesses large and small. Its improvements are already woven into the fabric of our health care system. A broad prohibition on the use of funds would halt, among other things, the operation of the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, the Pre-existing Con-

dition Insurance Plan, and the health insurance rate review, consumer assistance, and health insurance Exchange grant programs.

I hope this information is helpful. We would be pleased to answer any additional questions you may have. I have sent an identical letter to Ranking Member Levin.

Sincerely,

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS.

HONORING ARMY STAFF SER-  
GEANT JORGE ANTONIO  
SCATLIFFE

### HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Army Staff Sergeant Jorge Antonio Scatliffe, who died in Mosul, Iraq, on April 3, 2011, in support of Operation New Dawn. Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was the 7th soldier from my district, the U.S. Virgin Islands, to die in the Middle East since the outbreak of hostilities in the wake of the tragedy of September 11, 2001.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe, 32, was assigned to E Company, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He grew up on the island of St. Croix and attended the Lew Muckle Elementary School, the Elena Christian Junior High School, St. Croix Central High School and was one of the first graduates of the St. Croix Educational Complex.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe joined the Army in April of 1998 as a Bradley Fighting Vehicle system maintenance man. His first deployments to Iraq began in April 2003 and ended in 2004. He was redeployed in December 2005 and served until December 2006 and once again from June 2008 to May 2009. Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was on his fourth tour of duty in Iraq, which he began in 2010 and ended tragically on April 3rd of this year, when he gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country, his precious life.

Staff Sergeant Scatliffe received many awards and decorations which includes two Army Commendation Medals, three Army Achievement Medals, four Army Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Service Medal, an Iraqi Campaign Medal with campaign stars, a Global War on Terrorism Medal, Overseas Service Ribbons, an Army Service Ribbon, a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Mechanics, a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Wheel Vehicle Drivers and a Driver and Mechanic Badge for Tracked Vehicle Drivers.

Mr. Speaker, Staff Sergeant Scatliffe was a man who deeply loved his family, especially his mother, Sarah, with whom he maintained a close relationship. He is also mourned by his brothers, Robert and Raymond, and a circle of family, friends and fellow soldiers who are broken hearted at the loss of an exceptional young man.

I extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends and fellow soldiers of Staff Sergeant Jorge Scatliffe on behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, the U.S. Congress and the entire nation. Your service and your sacrifice will not be forgotten.